

1 37. (New) A computer-readable memory medium according to Claim 27,
2 wherein the method further comprises a preview generating step of generating
3 a print preview image, and
4 wherein, at said display data generation step, the template data is rewritten such
5 that the generated print preview image is displayed within the template data.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 5, 2002. Claims 1-37 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9, 10, 18, 19, 27, and 28 are in independent form. New Claims 29-37 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1-28 have been amended as to formal matters and/or to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Clarification is respectfully requested regarding whether the drawings filed with this application are approved as to formal matters. Attached to the Office Action is a PTO-948 form (copy attached), which appears to indicate that the drawings are not objected to. However, the PTO-948 form also has circled the category "SHADING," but no figure numbers or other information are indicated. Therefore, it is unclear which, if any, of the drawings are objected to with respect to shading.

Claims 2, 11, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have carefully reviewed and amended those claims, as deemed

necessary, with special attention to the points raised in section 3 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejections have been obviated and, therefore, their withdrawal is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 17, 19-23, 25, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,330,068 (Matsuyama). Claims 6, 15, and 24 stand rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,317 (Sasaki et al.). Claims 9, 18, and 27 stand rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki et al.

Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 9, 10, 18, 19, 27, and 28, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus for communicating with an external apparatus via the Internet. The information processing apparatus includes acquisition means, generation means, and print request means. The acquisition means acquires, via the Internet, print setting information from the external apparatus. The print setting information is necessary for generating print request information. The generation means generates the print request information based on the print setting information acquired by the acquisition means, without requiring connection to the external apparatus via the Internet. The print request means establishes communication, via the Internet, with the external apparatus for transmission of the print request information. The print request information is generated by the generation means before the print request means

establishes communication with the external apparatus.

In a conventional system, to issue print request information via the Internet requires that a client computer be connected to a server via the Internet. The print request information is generated while communicating with the server. The communication with the server is required to obtain information on paper size and/or print fees available at a print shop. Matsuyama teaches such a conventional system.

Unlike conventional systems, the information processing apparatus of Claim 1 acquires print setting information in advance, and then generates print request information based on the acquired information. Therefore, the claimed apparatus does not need to be connected to the external apparatus via the Internet in order to generate the print request information. By virtue of this feature, the Internet connection time may be shortened, thus reducing communication costs and improving data security.

Nothing in Matsuyama is believed to teach or suggest an information processing apparatus that includes "acquisition means for acquiring, via the Internet, print setting information from the external apparatus, the print setting information being necessary for generating print request information," and "generation means for generating the print request information based on the print setting information acquired by said acquisition means, without requiring connection to the external apparatus via the Internet," wherein "the print request information is generated by said generation means before said print request means establishes communication with the external apparatus," as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action alleges that Matsuyama teaches the claimed acquisition

means at column 7, lines 36-42. However, the cited portion of Matsuyama relates to a ROM 1003 that stores an operation procedure of a CPU 1001. Nothing in the cited portion is believed to relate to the claimed acquisition means.

Similarly, the Office Action alleges that Matsuyama teaches the claimed generation means at column 39, lines 10-17. However, the cited portion of Matsuyama states that "final print *data* to be *directly printed* is generated" based on a print order (emphasis added). Nothing in the cited portion is believed to relate to the claimed generation means, which generates print request information.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Matsuyama, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 10, 19, and 28 include features similar to those discussed above, in which print setting information is acquired in advance, and print request information is generated based on the acquired information. Therefore, Claims 10, 19, and 28 also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 9 is directed to an information processing apparatus that includes network browsing means, acquisition means, and display data generation means. The network browsing means communicates with a server across a network and displays data received from the server. The acquisition means acquires print setting information from the server and stores the print setting information at a client computer. The display data generation means includes a CGI function and rewrites the print setting information stored at the client computer and template data acquired separately from the print

setting information to generate browsing display data. In the browsing display data, which is displayed by the network browsing means, the print setting information stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data.

One important feature of Claim 9 is that the information processing apparatus acquires print setting information from the server, and rewrites the acquired print setting information and the template data acquired separately from the print setting information (see, for example, Figs. 17A and 17B, and the third embodiment of the specification) to generate the browsing display data, in which the print setting information is displayed within the template data (see, for example, Fig. 9). The browsing display data may be generated even if the acquired print setting information is changed or a plurality of pieces of print setting information is acquired. Also, the browsing display data may include a preview image as well as the print setting information (see, for example, Fig. 9).

Sasaki et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a printing system in a communication network. Apparently, Sasaki et al. teaches that a host computer sends print data to a printer and receives a preview image from the printer, and then displays the preview image. In response to an area designation by a user, the host computer acquires from the printer another preview image for the area with a different resolution.

Nothing has been found in Sasaki et al. that is believed to teach or suggest an information processing apparatus that includes "acquisition means for acquiring print setting information from the server and for storing the print setting information at a client computer," and "display data generation means with a CGI function for rewriting the print setting

information stored at the client computer and template data acquired separately from the print setting information to generate browsing display data, in which the print setting information stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data," as recited in Claim 9.

More specifically, Sasaki is not understood to teach or suggest displaying template data. Instead, what is displayed by the Sasaki system is the preview image itself. On the other hand, in the apparatus of Claim 9, the browsing display data, which is generated by rewriting the print setting information and the template data, is displayed such that the print setting information is displayed within the template data. This is executed with the CGI function of the information processing apparatus, and cannot be obtained simply by combining Sasaki with a CGI technique.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 9 is patentable over Sasaki et al., and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 18 and 27 include a feature similar to that discussed above, in which print setting information is acquired from a server, and the acquired print setting information and template data acquired separately from the print setting information is rewritten to generate browsing display data, in which the print setting information is displayed within the template data. Therefore, Claims 18 and 27 also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.


The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1 1. (Amended) An information processing apparatus, for communicating via
2 Internet with an external apparatus [via the Internet], said information processing apparatus
3 comprising:

4 acquisition means for acquiring, via the Internet, print [setup] setting information
5 from [said] the external apparatus, the print setting information being necessary for generating
6 print request information;

7 generation means for generating the print request information based on [said] the
8 print [setup] setting information acquired by said acquisition means, without requiring
9 connection to the external apparatus via the Internet; and

10 print request means for establishing communication, via the Internet, with [said]
11 the external apparatus for [the] transmission of [said] the print request information,

12 wherein [said] the print request information is generated by said generation means
13 before said print request means establishes communication with [said] the external apparatus.

1 2. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
2 [said] the print [setup] setting information[, which is information describing] indicates an output
3 style[,] in which output is available at a printer [for the performance of] that executes printing
4 based on the [information included in said] print request information.

1 3. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 storage means for storing [said] the print [setup] setting information, [and]
4 wherein, before communicating with [said] the external apparatus using said print
5 request means, [examines said] the print [setup] setting information stored in said storage means
6 is examined to determine [if said] whether the print [setup] setting information is newer than
7 [said] print [setup] setting information that is available at [said] the external apparatus.

1 4. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 derivation means for, before communication is established with [said] the external
4 apparatus by said print request means, [employing said] using the print [setup] setting
5 information to derive [the] expenses that are to be incurred to obtain [the] printing results.

1 5. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 4,
2 wherein, before communication is established with [said] the external apparatus using said print
3 request means, said derivation means [employs] uses print [setup] setting information available
4 at [said] the external apparatus to re-derive the expenses that are to be incurred to obtain [said]
5 the printing results.

1 6. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

2 wherein [said] the print [setup] setting information is HTML data generated for
3 [said] the external apparatus, and
4 [said] wherein the external apparatus manages [said] the print [setup] setting
5 information for each of at least one output shop.

1 7. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
2 said generation means [is] is adapted to perform a peruser plug-in function, and [employs the]
3 uses an application communication function of an OS to generate [said] print request information
4 for a document that is currently being edited by a document editor.

1 8. (Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1,
2 wherein, for communication purposes, a dial-up connection is used to connect [said] the external
3 apparatus to the Internet.

1 9. (Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
2 network browsing means for communicating with a server across a network and
3 for displaying data received from [said] the server;
4 acquisition means for acquiring print setting information [about said] from the
5 server and for storing [said] the print setting information at a client computer; and
6 display data generation means [having] with a CGI function for [employing said]
7 rewriting the print setting information [held by said] stored at the client computer and [separately

8 acquired HTML] template data acquired separately from the print setting information to generate
9 [HTML] browsing display data [that], in which the print setting information stored at the client
10 computer is displayed within the template data,

11 wherein the browsing display data is displayed by said network browsing means
12 [is capable of displaying].

1 10. (Amended) A method[,] for controlling an information processing apparatus
2 [for communicating] that communicates, via Internet, with an external apparatus [via the
3 Internet], said method comprising:

4 an acquisition step of acquiring, via the Internet, print [setup] setting information
5 from [said] the external apparatus, the print setting information being necessary for generating
6 print request information;

7 a generation step of generating the print request information based on [said] the
8 print [setup] setting information acquired at said acquisition step, without requiring connection to
9 the external apparatus via the Internet; and

10 a print request step of establishing communication, via the Internet, with [said] the
11 external apparatus for [the] transmission of [said] the print request information,

12 wherein [said] the print request information is generated at said generation step
13 before communication with [said] the external apparatus is established at said print request step.

1 11. (Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein [said] the print [setup]

2 setting information[, which is information describing] indicates an output style[,] in which output
3 is available at a printer [for the performance of] that executes printing based on the [information
4 included in said] print request information.

1 12. (Amended) A method according to claim 10, further comprising:
2 a storage step of storing [said] the print [setup] setting information, [and]
3 wherein, before communicating with [said] the external apparatus at said print
4 request step, [examines said] the print [setup] setting information stored at said storage step is
5 examined to determine [if said] whether the print [setup] setting information is newer than [said]
6 print [setup] setting information that is available at [said] the external apparatus.

1 13. (Amended) A method according to claim 10, further comprising:
2 a derivation step of, before communication is established with [said] the external
3 apparatus at said print request step, [employing said] using the print [setup] setting information
4 to derive [the] expenses that are to be incurred to obtain [the] printing results.

1 14. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein, before communication
2 is established with [said] the external apparatus at said print request step, at said derivation step,
3 print [setup] setting information available at [said] the external apparatus is [employed] used to
4 re-derive the expenses that are to be incurred to obtain [said] the printing results.

1 15. (Amended) A method according to claim 10,
2 wherein [said] the print [setup] setting information is HTML data generated for
3 [said] the external apparatus, and
4 [said] wherein the external apparatus manages [said] the print [setup] setting
5 information for each of at least one output shop.

1 16. (Amended) A method according to claim 10,
2 wherein said generation step [is] performs a peruser plug-in function, and
3 [the] wherein an application communication function of an OS is [employed] used
4 to generate [said] print request information for a document that is currently being edited by a
5 document editor.

1 17. (Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein, for communication
2 purposes, [said] the external apparatus and [said] the information processing apparatus are linked
3 together via the Internet by a dial-up connection.

1 18. (Amended) A method[,] for controlling information processing apparatus that
2 includes network browsing means for communicating with a server across a network and for
3 displaying data received from [said] the server, said method comprising:
4 an acquisition step of acquiring print setting information [about said] from the
5 server and of storing [said] the print setting information at a client computer; and

6 a display data generation step [having] of performing a CGI function for
7 [employing said] rewriting the print setting information [held by said] stored at the client
8 computer and [separately acquired HTML] template data acquired separately from the print
9 setting information to generate [HTML] browsing display data [that said], in which the print
10 setting information stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data,
11 wherein the browsing display data is displayed by the network browsing means [is
12 capable of displaying].

1 19. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium [which stores] storing a
2 program for implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus that
3 communicates, via Internet, with an external apparatus [via the Internet, said program], the
4 method comprising:

5 an acquisition step of acquiring, via the Internet, print [setup] setting information
6 from [said] the external apparatus, the print setting information being necessary for generating
7 print request information;

8 a generation step of generating the print request information based on [said] the
9 print [setup] setting information acquired at said acquisition step, without requiring connection to
10 the external apparatus via the Internet; and

11 a print request step of establishing communication, via the Internet, with [said] the
12 external apparatus for [the] transmission of [said] the print request information,

13 wherein [said] the print request information is generated at said generation step

14 before communication with [said] the external apparatus is established at said print request step.

1 20. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein [said] the print [setup] setting information[, which is information describing] indicates
3 an output style[, in which output is available at a printer [for the performance of] that executes
4 printing based on the [information included in said] print request information.

1 21. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein [said program] the method further comprises:
3 a storage step of storing [said] the print [setup] setting information, [and]
4 wherein, before communicating with [said] the external apparatus at said print
5 request step, [examines said] the print [setup] setting information stored at said storage step is
6 examined to determine [if said] whether the print [setup] setting information is newer than [said]
7 print [setup] setting information that is available at [said] the external apparatus.

1 22. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein [said program] the method further comprises:
3 a derivation step of, before communication is established with [said] the external
4 apparatus at said print request step, [employing said] using the print [setup] setting information
5 to derive [the] expenses that are to be incurred to obtain [the] printing results.

1 23. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 22,
2 wherein, before communication is established with [said] the external apparatus at said print
3 request step, at said derivation step, print [setup] setting information available at [said] the
4 external apparatus is [employed] used to re-derive the expenses that are to be incurred to obtain
5 [said] the printing results.

1 24. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein [said] the print [setup] setting information is HTML data generated for
3 [said] the external apparatus, and
4 [said] wherein the external apparatus manages [said] the print [setup] setting
5 information for each of at least one output shop.

1 25. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein said generation step [is] performs a peruser plug-in function, and
3 [the] wherein an application communication function of an OS is [employed] used
4 to generate [said] the print request information for a document that is currently being edited by a
5 document editor.

1 26. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 19,
2 wherein, for communication purposes, [said] the external apparatus and [said] the information
3 processing apparatus are linked together via the Internet by a dial-up connection.

1 27. (Amended) A computer-readable memory medium [which stores] storing a
2 program for implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus that
3 includes network browsing means for communicating with a server across a network and for
4 displaying data received from [said] the server, [said program] the method comprising:

5 an acquisition step of acquiring print setting information [about said] from the
6 server and of storing [said] the print setting information at a client computer; and

7 a display data generation step [having] of performing a CGI function for
8 [employing said] rewriting the print setting information [held by said] stored at the client
9 computer and [separately acquired HTML] template data acquired separately from the print
10 setting information to generate [HTML] browsing display data [that said], in which the print
11 setting information stored at the client computer is displayed within the template data,

12 wherein the browsing display data is displayed by the network browsing means [is
13 capable of displaying].

1 28. (Amended) A computer[-executable] program[,] product embodying a
2 computer program for implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus
3 that communicates, via Internet, with an external apparatus [via the Internet], the method
4 comprising:

5 an acquisition step of acquiring, via the Internet, print [setup] setting information
6 from [said] the external apparatus, the print setting information being necessary for generating

7 print request information;

8 a generation step of generating the print request information based on [said] the
9 print [setup] setting information acquired at said acquisition step, without requiring connection to
10 the external apparatus via the Internet; and

11 a print request step of establishing communication, via the Internet, with [said] the
12 external apparatus for [the] transmission of [said] the print request information,

13 wherein [said] the print request information is generated at said generation step
14 before communication with [said] the external apparatus is established at said print request step.

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